

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 062344

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY - NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: CABLE HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH 10

1.ETHIOPIANS ADVANCE RAPIDLY: FRENCH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IS ASTONISHED AT THE APPARENT COLLAPSE AND DISORGANIZATION OF SOMALI TROOPS AND REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT ETHIOPIAN FORCES WILL BE RANGED IN FULL STRENGTH ALONG THE SOMALI BORDER BY MARCH 12. (SECRET/NOFORN)

2. NYERERE WANTS TO QUOTE LAY THE GHOST UNQUOTE OF INTERNAL SETTLEMENT: TANZANIAN PRESIDENT NYERERE HAS TENTATIVELY INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE COOPERATING WITH THE US AND UK IN SEEKING A RHODESIA SOLUTION. FIRST, HOWEVER, THE UK MUST PUBLICLY STATE THAT THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT IS QUOTE GROSSLY INADEQUATE. UNQUOTE. (SECRET/EXDIS)

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3. EGYPT SEES SALISBURY AGREEMENT AS LEVER: ALTHOUGH IT FEELS COMPELLED TO SUPPORT THE OAU ENDORSEMENT OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, EGYPT ALSO HOPES THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL PUT PRESSURE ON THE FRONT TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE. (CONFIDENTIAL).

4. QOBOZA TO BE RELEASED IN SOUTH AFRICA: JUSTICE MINISTER

KRUGER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PERCY QOBOZA, EDITOR OF THE WORLD NEWSPAPER, AND EIGHT OTHER PROMINENT DETAINEES WILL BE RELEASED FROM PRISON. THE RELEASE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE MARCH 10. (UNCLASSIFIED)

5. LEFT LEADS IN FRENCH POLLS: PREPUBLICATION RESULTS OF TWO FRENCH POLITICAL POLLS GIVE THESE RANGES OF STRENGTH FOR THE MAJOR PARTIES IN THE APPROACHING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: SOCIALISTS 28-31 PERCENT, COMMUNISTS 20.5 - 21.5 PERCENT, TOTAL LEFT 52 - 54.5 PERCENT; RPR (GAULLIST) 22 PERCENT, UDF (CENTER) 19-20 PERCENT, TOTAL RIGHT 43-45 PERCENT. THE SITUATION IS TOO TRICKY FOR FIRM PREDICTIONS, HOWEVER. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. ISRAELI PRESIDENTIAL CHOICE NARROWS: IN THE APRIL 5 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN REPORTEDLY FAVORS YITZHAK CHAVET, WHO SEEMS BEST KNOWN FOR HAVING BEEN BORN IN EGYPT. ANOTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATE COULD MAKE A CLOSE RACE, HOWEVER: MODERATE ALIGNMENT POLITICIAN YITZHAK NAVON, A DOVISH MODERATE WITH BROAD APPEAL. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

7. ISRAELI CABINET SHAKE-UP UNAVOIDABLE? THE SPLIT IN THE ISRAELI CABINET, ROOTED IN BOTH IDEOLOGICAL AND PERSONAL DIFFERENCES, MAY RESULT IN A MINISTERIAL SHAKE-UP WHICH AFFECTS ISRAEL'S NEGOTIATING POSTURE. SECRET

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(CONFIDENTIAL)

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